

Wednesday, October 29 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Copps,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content – I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later, clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie, send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative, or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hunt
3659 S Luster
Springfield, MO 65804

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Amit Belani
796 Bronx River Road, #B65
Bronxville, NY 10708

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Sincerely,

Jon Falkner
Tibet Dr
Dayton, OH 45424

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Sincerely,

John Muraro
111 West 16th Street #4M New York, New York
New York, NY 10011

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Sincerely,

Rik Ditter
8200 W 143rd Ter
Overland Park, KS 66223

Daniel J. Hamilton
317 Gawin Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31093

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

Since you will hopefully receive many, many of these messages, let me add my personal comments here at the top of this message.

I regularly tape TV broadcasts to view later. I also sometimes share some favorite TV programs with family and friends who may have missed that broadcast. I wish to be able to continue doing these recordings

Please do not cave in to the greedy people who would control what we can
record! Keep the TV broadcasts free and recordable! Thank you.

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Hamilton

Christopher Grenz
2001 8th St SE
Pine Island, MN 55963

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace.

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open-source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open-source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television.

*** This issue is about protecting fair use and innovation by people outside of large corporations, you and I!

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open-source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Christopher Grenz

Gregory Davis
50 Pacific St.
Edison, NJ 08817

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is outside its proper role. It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace.

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The broadcast flag seems to be a crutch upon which the MPAA wishes to lean. Instead, it should be urged that creators of broadcast storage devices prevent abuse of their products. Everyone wants to prevent copyright infringement by "restrict usage of" means, but the push should be "you should be honest because " I am in favor of strict fines, and aggressive investigation of media thieves. Industry and innovation should not suffer because the end user has become less moral.

Sincerely,

Gregory Davis

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Sincerely,

Nick McNeill
7114 Porcher Ave.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

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Nancy Weiner
90 Banks Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

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Joseph & Teresa George

Lorain, OH 44052

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R M Gangawer
51 Davis Ave.
Dover, NJ 07801

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Edward Holt
7906 Millvale Rd
Chesterfield, VA 23832

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Sincerely,

Michael Marvel
403 Lida Cv
Cordova, TN 38018

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commissioner Copps,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the broadcast flag. Americans have long enjoyed the benefits of time-shifting and making personal copies of analog TV. The higher quality and greater benefits of digital TV should not be a tradeoff for individuals to lose those rights.

Hollywood is notorious for claiming that the VCR and every new technology innovation will put them out of business, but they have been wrong every time and are wrong again. Please vote against the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Scott Kister
124 University Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301

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445 12th Street, NW
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Sincerely,

Ron Lussier
85 Crescent Avenue
Sausalito, CA 94965

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Sincerely,

Steve Bannerman
13906 ravenwood dr
Saratoga, CA 95070

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Sincerely,

Vincent Stoffer
2116 N Humboldt St.
Portland, OR 97217

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Armando Garcia
4000 SW 23rd St. #3-308
Gainesville, FL 32608

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As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

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In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

N. Santos
10803 sw 62 terr.
Miami, FL 33173

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Copps,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

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Sincerely,

Doug Breuninger
3501 Bennet Place Holland
Southampton, PA 18966

October 29, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Copps,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Theodore Mielczarek
251 W. DeKalb Pike Apt E602
King Of Prussia, PA 19406
USA

October 29, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Copps,

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Sincerely,

Bob Dunn
708 Riveredge Dr
Richmond, TX 77469
USA

Joyce Maley
PO Box 1000
Elgin, SC 29045

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

As a law abiding, tax paying US citizen, please don't allow my TV viewing to have added restrictions. I don't copy shows to sell to others and have no intent to do so in the future. I respect the copyright laws and will abide by them with no additional needing to be put in place. Please vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am so disappointed that apparently there is an expected future abuse by some people, and I'm going to be punished for it.

At times I record shows in my living room as that is the only satellite connection I can afford at this time. I can then take the tape to my bedroom in the evening or another room that I might be working in. I can't believe that anyone could feel that this broadcast flag is in my interest nor in the interest of the law abiding public.

If this is going to be implemented in digital TV, I say 'NO' to digital TV. What good is it to have high quality TV if I have to leave for a rehearsal and just want to record the last 15 minutes of a show that I would otherwise miss, and can no longer do so? As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Joyce Maley

John J. Anastasio
420 Ardmore Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08629

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

As a broadcast television viewer, educator and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television. I see this proposal as just another attempt of the powerful motion picture and broadcast industries to bulldoze legislation through the federal system in an attempt to limit my rights while producing more profit.

Over the past quarter of a century the viewing public has been able to record, transport and play back television signals through the use of analog tape, with no detriment to the entertainment industry. If anything, the use of personal videotape recorders has done much to enhance the income of many of the studios and networks who now choose to promulgate the outrageous idea that we will suddenly become "digital thieves" by choosing how and when we view their programs and films. This is nothing more than a revisiting of the arguments put forth in the Sony Betamax case of the mid 1970's, and today's pleas hold no more water now than they did then.

What has happened to the grand old republican idea of a free market? This administration has proved over and over again that it is more in favor of federal regulation and intrusion into private affairs in the so-called national interest than any administration in the history of this country. This smacks to me of yet another example of government by the rich and powerful, by the special interests who fund politics, and not by a government of and for the majority of the people in this country.

I strongly oppose this course of action. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

John J. Anastasio